

Western Region Cuttings

Spring 2012 Newsletter of the Western Region - International Plant Propagators' Society Vol. 3, No. 1

Douglas Justice Receives 2011 Curtis J. Alley Award



The Curtis J. Alley award is the highest award given by the Western Region of the International Plant Propagators' Society for service to the region. On September 23, 2011 it was presented to Douglas Justice at the annual meeting of the Western Region of IPPS in Sacramento, California.

Douglas is a long-time member, having served the Western Region as President and International Delegate with distinction. His horticultural education started early in life at the hands of his father, a renowned landscape architect, who introduced the family to tree identification at 60 mph (~96 kph) on family vacations. His thirst for knowledge and delight in plants grew throughout high school and college as he collected tropicals and succulents, worked in the plant industry and developed an ever-expanding circle of plant colleagues and friends. He earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of British Columbia, after which he worked in nurseries and gardens in both British Columbia and England. He is and has been a very busy man, serving on many organizations including the Vancouver Rhododendron Society, Native Plant Society, and various other professional and gardening organizations. His current 'real' job includes serving as the Associate Director and Curator of Collections at the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research, as well as teaching assignments at University of British Columbia, where he teaches plant identification and horticulture techniques. He is also the author of *The Jade Garden: New and Notable Plants from Asia* as well as a number of other publications and is currently writing a book on ornamental trees in Vancouver.

IPPS-WR on [facebook](#)



Emilie Speciale has been working to get the IPPS-WR Facebook page up and running. The page is officially named the International Plant Propagators' Society - Western Region. In this endeavor, the Western Region hopes to find and connect with new members as the "page" spreads from friend to friend. It is our hope that after you read this you will become our friend on Facebook and join in on any conversations. Feel free to leave comments and add a link or two to information of interest to all of us. We would enjoy any posts about new plants, new techniques, new products, and/or whatever you would like to share. Please post any questions on the Facebook page or email me at specialem22@yahoo.com.



Save the Date:
53rd Annual Meeting
September 19-22, 2012
Ventura, CA

Editor's Note: Embedded hyperlinks work for web and email addresses.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Planning and executing last year's IPPS WR Annual Meeting in Sacramento was by far the largest volunteer effort that I have participated in to-date and its successful execution hinged on the participation of many other IPPS members. It was a humbling experience to be able to count on such a large number of IPPS members to work on this project. I am sincerely grateful for their contribution. Their significant time and effort is a tribute to the value that they hold in this organization.

A career in horticulture has never been a choice for me—I've always been drawn to things green. Depending on the day, my family jokes that it can be either an addiction or a disease. Regardless, I am convinced it is hereditary, as my affinity for plants can be traced through my like-minded father and his mother to my great grandfather, who was a hobbyist cymbidium orchid breeder in the California East Bay town of Clayton and who supplemented his hardware store with vegetable starts. Growing up in Stockton, California, and surrounded by the Central Valley, I somehow assumed I would find myself in agriculture—either in research or production. As an undergraduate at the University of California, Davis, I worked in a walnut breeding program for four years—from field to greenhouse to lab—propagating in each venue. Graduation led me to work in pepper breeding for a vegetable seed company's R&D site in Davis. Upon returning to UC Davis for graduate school, I transitioned from viticulture to studying salinity effects in irrigation water on coast redwoods with one of our region's past presidents, Dr. Lorence Oki. One day, I received an email from the graduate group coordinator advertising something called the IPPS and the Bruce Briggs Scholarship. I had no idea this society existed. What could be better than an organization focused on this specific aspect of horticulture that had always been of significant interest to me? I immediately applied and was fortunate to win one of the scholarships in 2004. I participated in the wonderful pre-tour and was hooked before the annual meeting proper had even started. Earning this scholarship was the start of what I hoped would be a long relationship with this valuable organization. Based on what I experienced at that meeting, I quickly came to feel that lack of participation would put me at a disadvantage if I planned to pursue a career in horticulture.

In fact, this first annual meeting and its serendipitous North Bay Area pre-tour exposed me to Quarryhill Botanical Garden, my current place of employment of almost five years. Funny, though I walked and cycled through the UC Davis Arboretum for many years, it took a guided tour of Quarryhill in Glen Ellen, CA to flip the mental switch to start me thinking about a career in the botanical garden field. With foci encompassing conservation, research, and education through a multi-faceted outreach program, this is the field for me. One aspect of my responsibilities includes managing the garden's nursery and plant propagation and production are central to my position.

During my short tenure with this organization, we have seen significant changes in membership renewals and annual meeting participation. Commercial horticulture comprises the most significant aspect of our membership. Though my fingers are not firmly on the commercial pulse as a horticulturist at a non-profit botanical garden, I am aware first-hand of the recent economic hit to the industry. Our staff was subject to furlough days for a period. These economic times and their contribution to increasingly tight margins, coupled with shifts in the industry that seem to include language barriers, separation between the owner and propagator, competition with other specialist horticultural organizations offering memberships, and increased ability to acquire information from other sources, most especially the Internet, appear to contribute heavily to this trend in declining membership and participation. We also may not be providing some of you with the value you require to justify a membership and meeting attendance.

If we are to remain a viable organization, we must provide you with this incentive. Discussions in current committee meetings have flushed out ideas such as: increasing newsletter frequency, expanding student membership and making it free of an annual fee, reviewing the responsibilities of the Executive Committee in consideration of redefining job descriptions and possibly adding committee members, controlling costs, and working to increase the frequency of local area meetings. One thing is certain. We need additional help if we are to pull through. Our committees have a broad range of activities, from focusing on publicity and promotion, membership and scholarship, and financial advice. We also have Area Directors who need assistance with building local support and hosting area meetings. Further we would love your input on articles to diversify and thicken our newsletter.

Please take this request seriously and please consider contacting me to discuss how you may be of service. There is no shortage of need. I can be reached at cbarnes@quarryhillbg.org.

Corey Barnes

2011 - 2012 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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BRUCE BRIGGS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Adam Ingrao – Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Dennise Graham – Merritt College

Aaron Sumner – Cabrillo College
Mark Gardner – Merritt College

NEW MEMBERS: 2011-2012

Clifford Beumel	Sierra Gold Nurseries	Ian Biggi	Oregon State University
David Binczewski	BooShoot Gardens	Ryan Contreras	Oregon State University
Ketch DeKanter	Little Prince of Oregon	Kim Dexter	Mt. San Antonio CC
Neji Dhakouani	Merritt College	Lyne Dijkman	Olds College
Micheal Dunn	Mt. San Antonio CC	Ruben Flores	Mt. San Antonio CC
Don Fuller	Merritt College	Lindsay Garza	Sam Houston State College
Francisco J. Gomez	Piroche Plants Inc.	Adam Ingrao	California Poly. State Univ.
Scott Jenkins	The Stepping Stones Nursery	Laurie Jutzi	Mt. San Antonio CC
Alison Kutz	Sound Horticulture	Matt Mart	Euro American Propagators
Kevin Meyers		Patrick O'Connor	Merritt College
Shawn Olson	Brigham Young University	Gary Pellett	Newflora LLC
Carl Pongs	Greenbelt Growers Nursery	Robin Reason	South Puget Sound CC
Michael B. Reed	Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden	Meg Ryan	Environment Design
Jeffrey Snyder	Lava Nursery, Inc.	Rhiannon Spaw	Carlton Plants
Nicholas Stromberg	Univ. of California - Davis	Aaron Sumner	Cabrillo College
Patti Tauscher	Merritt College	Kristina Uher	Janus Gardens
Maria Valana	Olds College	Tracy Vandendriessche	Olds College
Fran Walsh	Diablo Valley College	Robert Zimmerman	Chimacum Woods

NEWS FROM THE IPPS INTERNATIONAL BOARD

FloraCulture

The International Board of IPPS has approved an arrangement with FloraCulture International that allows IPPS members to receive a free copy of this magazine if they desire.

As a protection against unwanted marketing, instead of just providing the entire IPPS membership list to FloraCulture International, the Board is asking each region to send to FloraCulture the names and addresses of just those members interested in having the magazine mailed to them. As you probably know, the magazine is available on their website in digital format here:

http://www.floracultureinternational.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=705&Itemid=184
but this agreement provides a mailed copy.

If you wish to receive a paper copy of FloraCulture, please send your request and information to Lee Dempsey at ippswrlee@sbcglobal.net.

New Passwords for International and Western Region Websites

Members will be receiving new passwords by email on April 10th that will be effective from April 15th onward.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

THE OUTBACK AND BEYOND 2011 INTERNATIONAL TOUR AUSTRALIA

Australia has some of the world's most distinctive and diverse natural environments with unique wildlife and spectacular landscapes, including many national parks and World Heritage Areas. A group of 22 people met in Melbourne for the beginning of the 2011 International Board Meeting in Sydney followed by the Australian Region conference. The long tour began with a welcome dinner at a premier Chinese dumpling restaurant with our tour hosts David Cliff and Greg McPhee, who also serve as the International Director and International President, respectively. The next morning the group visited nurseries around the

Melbourne area accompanied by Robert Chin, the Industry Development Officer from the Nursery and Garden Industry Victoria (NGIV). Nurseries on the tour included Humphrey's a large wholesale grower,



Specialty Trees and Kuranga native Nursery. The group was impressed with both NIASA and Ecohort Accreditation programs that these nurseries practiced. To learn more about the accreditation visit <http://www.ngia.com.au>.

From Melbourne we traveled northwest to Sunbury where we visited Western Plains Nursery specializing in propagation and contract planting of native material. Then onto Bendigo to a bedding and flowering plant grower, followed by MacDonald's retail nursery. The group enjoyed dinner on a paddle steamer along the Murray River in Echuca. The following day involved

a visit to Howlong Nursery, which specializes in bedding plants and bloomers and has an interesting new production facility designed especially for pot culture. On our way to Albury we stopped off in Beechworth to learn about Ned Kelly, Australia's most famous bushranger, (outlaw). A brisk walk the next morning brought us to Australia's oldest botanic gardens at Albury. The curator, a passionate advocate for the garden, conducted the tour of the beautiful rare plants in the garden. Then it was on to Jindabyne, one of the highest settlements of its size in Australia, at 918 meters above sea level. Here, the board conducted a preliminary board meeting. After a two-night stay we crossed the Great Dividing Range, down Brown Mountain to Bega and a wonderful visit to Tarrawood Nursery, run by IPPS member Michael Wood. Michael specializes in a range of unusual native plants, particularly grafted Eucalyptus. In the afternoon we spent a couple of hours at Eurobadalla regional botanic gardens. Our tour was conducted by a young propagator currently on loan from the Melbourne Botanic Gardens.



After a night at Bateman Bay we headed for the capitol city of Canberra where 9 other members joined the group for the short tour. At this time 7 of the 8 regions were represented and a potential new region China. Visits in Canberra included the National Arboretum, the National Bonsai and Penjing collection and the National Botanical Garden. The following day started with a visit to Peter and Jennifer Ollerenshaw's nursery at Bywong where Peter breeds a range of Australian plants. Then it was on to the Australian Cricket museum in Bowral where the group had a lesson in cricket and an improvised game on the Bradman Ova (<http://www.bradman.org.au>). Onward to Kiama by the sea for a two-night stay. Here the board held its first full meeting to deal with the administrative business that was necessary so that they would have more time in Sydney to debate main policy decisions. In the afternoon we visited Jamberoo Native Nursery and enjoyed our first taste of Pavola, a meringue dessert. Traveling north we made our way to the outskirts of Sydney and stopped at Tim Pickle's retail nursery in Cambelltown. There, we were given an interesting and entertaining tour. He has a unique method of advertising and one of the highlights was his newsletter and website



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newsletter and website (<http://www.timsgardencentre.com.au>). Our last stop of the day was at Mount Annan Botanic Garden which is entirely devoted to native plants. We were escorted through the gardens by a very knowledgeable education officer. After a night in Katoomba we took in the sights of the Blue Mountains before visiting the Mount Tombah Botanic Gardens where we saw a magnificent display of temperate plants and trees and then toured the private garden of Roger and Wai Davidson at Mount Wilson. Our final dinner was held at the Summit revolving restaurant where we had the



Summit revolving restaurant where we had the opportunity to look out over the city of Sydney and the harbor, a great ending to a fantastic trip. The final

International Board meeting was held the following day followed by the Australian Regional Conference. All of the participants appreciate how much work and planning goes into these tours, from the hosts to all the IPPS members who help out with various tasks ahead of, during, and after the tour. Although I have mentioned only three meetings during the tour, committee members work during the bus rides and often during dinner making the communication during the tour essential to the decision-making process of the board. A hallmark of this IPPS organization is the camaraderie, the shared knowledge, the respect and appreciation for different cultures, and the friendships that are made over the years.



The 2012 Tour will be held in Japan, October 20 – 28 for additional information you can visit http://www.ipps.org/events/12/IPPS_Japan_Tour_Itinerary.pdf

Fred Hopkins

COMPLETED AREA MEETINGS

IPPS Western Region Area Meeting December 3, 2011 Denver Botanic Gardens

In spite of a pretty significant snowstorm, the meeting held at the Denver Botanic Gardens was attended by a high-quality group from many different backgrounds. The meeting began with an introduction to the International Plant Propagators' Society by Mike Bone, for those who were unfamiliar. The lecture series began with a 45 minute lecture by Katy Wilcox, a member of the IPPS-Western Region Executive Committee. She discussed seed testing at length, including the history, importance and procedures used. Quite a bit of time was spent on tetrazolium testing, as she had just used this type of testing for the grant-funded research project on rare *Penstemon spp.* that was recently completed. The results of the experiment will be in the next American Penstemon Society Bulletin. This lecture was followed by 45 minutes with Dr. Sarada Krishnan, in which she described micropropagation. The majority of the talk was on tissue culture and what is happening in the new tissue culture lab at Denver Botanic Gardens. She discussed current projects, including the Plant Select funded project to increase production of *Heuchera* 'Snow Angel', as well as what future projects could occur.



A very productive question and answer session followed, showing that the information was well received by the engaged group. After some networking time, the group headed down to the headhouse area of the new greenhouse complex for the demonstration portion of the meeting. The first demonstration was an



example of complete and incomplete staining from a tetrazolium test. The test was done the day before and the seeds were cut open under a dissecting microscope to show the stained embryo and endosperm. *Penstemon grandiflorus* 'Prairie Jewels' was used, and since all *Penstemon spp.* have a living endosperm, that and the embryo will both be completely stained if the seed is viable. John Murgel, an outdoor gardener and member of the tissue culture staff, followed up the TZ demonstration by showing the different levels now contained in the lab of *Heuchera* 'Snow Angel'. He discussed the media used, the methods of beginning and then transferring the germplasm and the eventual planting in soilless

media to be put into a greenhouse setting. He showed contaminated test tubes, as well as the successful final product that were in 2.5" pots in the propagation greenhouse. The final demonstration was on embryo excision by Mike Bone. He showed the step-by-step process by Donald J. Holeman, who authored a guide to simple embryo extraction with emphasis on roses. Mike showed the process on *Rosa pulverulenta*, and then put the exposed seeds under lights in the tissue culture lab. He had done the process a few days before so the group was able to see that the previous seeds were beginning to photosynthesize. The meeting commenced at that point with more lively discussion and questions about meetings to follow. The group's contact info was gathered and, hopefully by increased marketing and word of mouth from attendees whose feedback was very positive, the next meeting will be even more successful.

Katy Wilcox - wilcoxk@botanicgardens.org

UPCOMING AREA MEETINGS

Northern California Area Meeting
Friday, June 8, 2012, 9:30am to 4:30pm

\$25.00

The Northern California spring area tour for 2012 will be a tour of food-producing nurseries in the Watsonville area. The date is June 8, Friday, starting with Far West Fungi in Moss Landing at 9:30am. Far West grows gourmet mushrooms and mushroom kits. They have a booth at the Ferry Building in San Francisco. Check them out at Farwestfungi.com. We will then move on to the new home of Four Winds Growers, who have expanded their citrus operation and now grow blueberries and other edibles besides an enormous variety of dwarf citrus. Don Dillon Sr. is the owner and a founding member of IPPS-WR. There are 4 generations of Dillons working in the several locations of Four Winds, his grandson and granddaughter run the Watsonville location. Their website is Fourwindsgrowers.com. Lunch will be on your own, followed by a visit to Sunland Garden Products, producers of premium potting mixes and bulk media for nurseries far and wide. They have an amazing operation, mountains of raw materials are loaded into giant hoppers that feed measured amounts of ingredients into a stream of media that is mixed, monitored and tested before being bagged. Our last stop will be Cabrillo College Horticulture Department. Students are encouraged to innovate in the state-of-the-art facility and several students have set up an aquaculture/hydroponic system to grow tomatoes fertilized by fish "manure". Hours of the entire tour will be approximately 9:30am to 4:30pm. Cost will be \$25 which includes the tour fee for Far West Fungi. Make the check out to IPPS Western Region and send it to Susan Ashley, 1450 California St. Berkeley, CA 94703.

Susan Ashley - susanwashley@gmail.com

We hope to see you in June!

ARE THESE ON YOUR BOOKSHELF?

***Natural Enemies Handbook* by Mary Louise Flint, Steve Dreistant, and photographs by Jack Kelly Clark. Publication 3386**

<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>

Thought to be the best-ever practical guide to biological control. This book will help you identify and use natural enemies to control pests in almost any agricultural crop, garden or landscape.

***Integrated Pest Management for Floriculture and Nurseries*. Publication 3402**

Very comprehensive book for growers and consultants.

<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>

***Landscape Plants for California Gardens* by Bob Perry**

A labor of love that took over 17 years to complete. Exceptional descriptions and photography done by the author. A must have classic of our times.

<http://landdesignpublishing.com>

***A Californians Guide to the Trees Among Us* by Matt Ritter**

Very entertaining and complete guide to trees. Excellent Photography. good keys, and great stories.

<http://www.heydaybooks.com>

Dave Lannom

IN MEMORIAM

Philip Acton Barker

Philip Acton Barker, Ph.D., of Davis, died March 22, 2012. He was 86. Barker worked as a research scientist in urban forestry for the U.S. Forest Service. A memorial service is planned April 28 at Davis Community Church, 412 C St. in downtown Davis.



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